

panies as they move along. Often, in the early spring, I hear on soft mild evenings, faint bird calls from the sky, which are answered from bush and tree, and these, in my opinion, are the trumpeters who call together the winged armies of the air.



ON THE SPECIFIC IDENTITY OF *BUTEO BRACHYURUS* AND *BUTEO FULIGINOSUS*, WITH
ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF THEIR
OCCURRENCE IN FLORIDA.

BY W. E. D. SCOTT.

ON the 16th of March, 1889, near Tarpon Springs, I found a pair of Hawks just starting to build a nest. The locality was on the edge of a 'hammock,' and the nest, the foundation of which was finished, was in a gum tree some forty feet from the ground. Both birds were seen in the act of placing additional material on the structure. As the birds were rare, and I could not risk their being killed or driven away, with the aid of a native hunter both were secured, though before killing them I was certain of their identity.

The female, No. 6392 of my collection, is *Buteo brachyurus* and the male, No. 6391, is a typical example in very fine, full plumage of what has heretofore been called *Buteo fuliginosus*. Therefore the *Buteo fuliginosus* of Sclater must henceforth be considered as a synonym of *Buteo brachyurus* of Vieillot.

It seems probable that the *adult* birds vary in color with sex, and that the bird known as *B. brachyurus* is the female, and that called *B. fuliginosus* the male. I am further convinced of this by several facts that have come under my observation. Since killing the pair of birds spoken of, I have seen *two fuliginosus* accompanying a *brachyurus* and going through all the manœuvres peculiar to the pairing season. Again, Mr. J. W. Atkins, writing me in regard to some birds he kindly secured for me from A. Lechevallier, says: "Unfortunately there is but *one fuliginosus* in the box. . . . The box also contains a Hawk that Lechevallier shot *in company* with a *black hawk*, and be-

lieves it to be a *young female* of that species." This was written to me *before* I secured the pair mated and building, and neither Mr. Atkins nor Lechevallier know up to this time, April 22, of my observations of March 16.

The bird alluded to by Mr. Atkins is before me. It is 3216 of my collection, and has been examined by Mr. J. A. Allen, who pronounces it *Buteo brachyurus*. It was taken, as before stated, by A. Lechevallier at Chatham Bay, Florida, November 12, 1888, in company with a *black hawk*, presumably what has been called *Buteo fuliginosus*, though I have not seen the bird. I have also before me three examples from Florida, that have not yet been recorded, of the so-called *Buteo fuliginosus*. No. 3215 is a male, young of the year, and was taken at Miami, Florida, on October 11, 1883, by A. Lechevallier. No. 3225 is an adult male taken on February 2, 1889, at Chatham Bay, Florida, by the same collector. No. 3228 is without a sex mark, but is evidently a young bird of the year, and was taken near the source of the Caloosahatchie River by Mr. J. F. Menge, of Fort Myers, Florida. In *size and color* No. 3228 exactly corresponds with No. 3215, a male, young of the year. Therefore I am inclined to believe that the color of the adult birds will be found to be correlated with the sex. I wish to express to Mr. J. W. Atkins, of Key West, my thanks for his kindness in procuring me five of the seven *Buteo brachyurus* that have come into my possession.

The observation already recorded in 'The Auk,' Vol. V, p. 185, and other records here given, lead to the conclusion that this species is of regular occurrence on the Gulf coast of Florida at least as far north as the vicinity of Tarpon Springs, and that it breeds regularly though rarely in this region, there can be no doubt. The birds that have been met with in the immediate vicinity of Tarpon Springs have usually been seen in pairs, and once three were observed together. During March and April, 1888, within a radius of ten miles of the town in question, there were observed by me, on March 17 a single bird, on April 6 a pair, on April 10 a pair, these last two pairs probably the same individuals. On two other days in late March and April, and several times in May, 1888, I saw pairs of Hawks that were certainly the birds in question. They were always very shy and wary, and difficult to approach in any way. About two hundred yards in the open

was as near as one could generally approach. They frequented the vicinity of hammocks, and their habits, except the extreme shyness, appeared much like those of the common Red-shouldered Hawk of this region. The female, No. 6392, of the pair spoken of as beginning to build had eggs with the yolks almost developed, and would have laid within a week. From the appearance of the ovary and oviduct I believe that three eggs would have been laid.

A SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS OF THE GULF COAST OF FLORIDA.

BY W. E. D. SCOTT.

(Continued from p. 160.)

Colinus virginianus floridanus. FLORIDA BOB-WHITE. — This species is abundant in the vicinity of Tarpon Springs, and breeds in numbers in early April. At least two broods are raised, for I have found birds but a few days old in the first week of July. As to the affinity of the form here with true *cubanensis* I quote from a recent letter received from Mr. J. A. Allen who kindly examined, at my request, a large series of the Quails from the vicinity of Tarpon Springs. He says: "None of the Quails very nearly approach *C. v. cubanensis*, which has the black extending more or less irregularly over the whole breast and onto the upper abdomen, and much chestnut on the flanks, and the bill rather small. The black is not so much confined to a well defined jugular band as in your specimens. The females are also quite different from any in your lot. Your birds seem to be all extreme (typical) *floridanus*, except the two females, 3226 and 3227, which lean a little toward *virginianus*, as do other East Coast specimens I have seen."

The two females referred to by Mr. Allen are from Miami, Florida, and all the rest of the series, some forty in number, are from the vicinity of Tarpon Springs.

Mr. Atkins says that the birds were only occasional in the immediate vicinity of Punta Rassa though abundant a few miles back in the country.

Colinus virginianus cubanensis. CUBAN BOB-WHITE. — Mr. Atkins procured a Quail, the only one he has taken so far on the Island of Key West, on July 5, 1888. It is very different from any of the Quails already noticed from about Tarpon Springs, and can only be referred to this subspecies. It is an adult male, and is No. 6086 of my collection. My